

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 04680 151255Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 079549

P 151156Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3791

S E C R E T LISBON 4680

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REPORTS OF BLACKMAIL OF COSTA GOMES

REF: STATE 193299

1. THE ONLY TWO REPORTS OF WHICH EMBASSY IS AWARE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WHILE ASSIGNED AS COMMANDER OF THE MOZAMBIQUE MILITARY REGION, COSTA GOMES IS ALLEGED TO HAVE PRAISED THE PERFORMANCE OF THE "FLECHAS" ("ARROWS"--ANTI-GUERRILLA, PARAMILITARY FORCES OF THE FORMER SECRET POLICE) AND REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT CREATE MORE FLECHA UNITS IN ANGOLA.

(B) DURING HIS ASSIGNMENT AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN ANGOLA, COSTA GOMES WAS SAID TO HAVE DISCOVERED THAT A DUTCH SHIP WAS LEAVING EUROPE FOR ANGOLA WITH ARMS FOR THE MPLA. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ARRANGED FOR BOMB TO BE PLACED ABOARD. SHIP BLEW UP AND SANK ENR ROUTE.

2. IN OUR JUDGMENT, NEITHER OF THESE TWO REPORTS PROVIDES GOOD BLACKMAIL MATERIAL FOR COMMUNISTS OR OTHERS.

3. IN ASSESSING COSTA GOMES'S ENIGMATIC POLITICAL PERSONALITY, SHOULD ALSO BE BORNE IN MIND THAT HE AND VASCO GONCALVES HAVE LONG-STANDING PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP; THAT PRESIDENT'S ONLY SON LIVED WITH GONCALVES FAMILY WHILE COSTA GOMES WAS ON DUTY IN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 04680 151255Z

AFRICA; AND THAT PRESIDENT'S SON AND GONCALVES'S DAUGHTER ARE

SAID TO BE ENGAGED AND ALSO REPORTEDLY BOTH MEMBERS OF THE PCP (LISBON 4558).

4. AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, INEXPLICABLE OR UNHELPFUL BEHAVIOR BY PORTUGUESE LEADERS IS OFTEN ASCRIBED TO BLACKMAIL BY THOSE WHO ARE DISAPPOINTED IN SUCH BEHAVIOR. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FILES OF FORMER SECRET POLICE (PIDE) WERE RIFLED BY COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF 1974 COUP, SO AMPLE GROUND OF BLACKMAIL INDEED EXISTS. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN LISBON, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CONSERVATIVE AIR FORCE GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO REMAINS FREE AND ACTIVE PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE HE GOT HOLD OF DAMAGING SECRET POLICE FILES ON COMMUNISTS, AS WELL AS ON SOME OF HIS LEFTIST MILITARY COLLEAGUES, WHEN HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE PIDE EXTINCTION ORGANIZATION IN 1974.

CARLUCCI

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MUCKRAKING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750282-1037
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750849/aaaabqsv.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 193299
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS OF BLACKMAIL OF COSTA GOMES
TAGS: PINT, PO, (GOMES, COSTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006